

Message Text

PAGE 01 TOKYO 07308 031004Z

46

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 030915Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0569

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 7308

E. O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJ: DIET DELIBERATIONS RESUME

REF: TOKYO 6515

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY. DIET DELIBERATIONS ON PRIME MINISTER MIKI'S "IMPORTANT ITEMS" FINALLY GOT UNDER WAY JUNE 3 AFTER NEARLY A MONTH'S DELAY. ALTHOUGH MIKI CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR PASSAGE OF ALL ITEMS, ONLY ONE DOMESTIC MEASURE SEEMS TO HAVE REASONABLE PROSPECT OF SUCCESS. HOW MIKI WILL HANDLE THIS LIKELY SETBACK REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT, DESPITE CERTAIN POSSIBLE TACTICAL ADVANTAGES, HE IS NOT LIKELY TO CALL A GENERAL ELECTION UNTIL LATE 1975 OR 1976. END SUMMARY.

1. DIET DELIBERATION OF PRIME MINISTER TAKEO MIKI'S "IMPORTANT ITEMS" FINALLY BEGAN JUNE 3. ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 6, SEVERAL EVENTS INTERVENED. FIRST WAS INABA AFFAIR AND ITS RESOLUTION (TOKYO 6515) WHICH OCCUPIED ALL BUT FINAL FEW DAYS
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 07308 031004Z

OF SCHEDULED REGULAR DIET SESSION, DURING WHICH NEGOTIATIONS WERE HELD TO EXTEND DIET SESSION. FORTY DAY EXTENSION, TO JULY 4, WAS FINALLY DECIDED MAY 24 OVER PROTEST OF OPPOSITION PARTIES. (SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO OPPOSITION PARTY BOYCOTT.)

SINCE MAY 26 INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS HAVE TAKEN PLACE SETTING STAGE FOR JUNE 3 OPENING OF PLENARY DEBATE ON MIKI ITEMS IN LOWER HOUSE.

2. DESPITE SUBSTANTIAL DIET EXTENSION, PROSPECTS FOR MIKI'S PROPOSALS, WITH ONE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION, STILL APPEAR BLEAK. SOLE EXCEPTION IS ELECTION REDISTRICTING BILL. TO RECAP PROSPECTS BRIEFLY: ON DIPLOMATIC SIDE, JAPAN-CHINA PACT NEGOTIATIONS REMAIN HUNG UP OVER HEGEMONY ISSUE. NPT CHANGES ARE STILL REGARDED AS SLIGHT BY KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS BECAUSE LDP HAWKS WHO OPPOSE TREATY WERE SUCCESSFUL IN TACKLING ON CONDITIONS (TOKYO 6519) UNACCEPTABLE TO LDP DOVES AND OPPOSITION PARTIES. ALL AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT RESULTS OF MIYAZAWA VISIT TO US AND REVCON DELIBERATIONS WERE PRECISELY WHAT WAS HOPED FOR HERE BY TREATY PROPONENTS. LASTLY, JAPAN-SOUTH KOREA CONTINENTAL SHELF TREATY RATIFICATION APPEARS PIGEON-HOLED OUT OF CONCERN FOR POSSIBLE LOS IMPLICATIONS AND BECAUSE OF LACK OF SUPPORT AMONG LDP LEFT-WING AND OPPOSITION PARTIES.

3. OF THREE "IMPORTANT" DOMESTIC BILLS, ANTI-MONOPOLY BILL IS GIVEN LITTLE CHANCE OF PASSAGE DUE TO BUSINESS COMMUNITY FEARS--REFLECTED ACROSS LDP SPECTRUM--THAT BILL IS TOO HARSH AND OPPOSITION PARTY/CONSUMERS BELIEF THAT BILL IS TOO WEAK. SHIINA PERSONALLY REMAINS OPPOSED AND NAKASONE CAUTIOUS. POLITICAL FUNDS CONTROL LAW IS OPPOSED, AT LEAST TACITLY, BY POLITICIANS OF ALL STRIPES BECAUSE OF PROVISIONS THAT ALL CONTRIBUTIONS OVER 10,000 YEN MUST BE RECORDED AND REPORTED. THIS WOULD EXPOSE UNION CONTRIBUTIONS TO CERTAIN LDP CANDIDATES, CORPORATE "HUSH MONEY" CONTRIBUTIONS TO OPPOSITION PARTIES AND OTHER CAREFULLY HIDDEN RELATIONSHIPS.

4. ONLY BILL GIVEN SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE OF PASSAGE REMAINS ELECTION REDISTRICTING BILL ON WHICH LDP, JSP AND DSP--EXCEPTING ONLY THOSE DIET MEMBERS WHO ARE DIRECTLY AND ADVERSELY AFFECTED--ARE MORE OR LESS AGREED. ALTHOUGH IT WOULD LOSE SOME SEATS, LDP SEES THIS AS LEAST DISADVANTAGEOUS REDISTRICTING SCHEME. JSP AND DSP, ON OTHER HAND, WOULD STAND TO GAIN SOME SEATS AND CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 07308 031004Z

REDUCE THEIR COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE VIS A VIS JCP AND KOMEITO. THIS BECAUSE BILL PROVIDES FOR PROHIBITION OF FREE DISTRIBUTION OF JCP AND KOMEITO PARTY ORGANS DURING ELECTION PERIODS. AS A RESULT BOTH JCP AND KOMEITO REMAIN ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO BILL.

5. BOTH PARTIES HAVE USED THIS JUSTIFICATION--JCP ON MAY 26 AND KOMEITO ON MAY 27--FOR THEIR FORMAL POLICY DECISIONS TO OPPOSE CONTINUATION OF MIKI CABINET. IT MAY NOT BE A COINCIDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT DETAILED CALCULATIONS OF APRIL LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS HAS LED TO CURRENT CONVENTIONAL WISDOM HERE THAT KOMEITO AND JCP WOULD STAND TO GAIN MOST IF GENERAL ELECTION WERE HELD SOON. INTERESTINGLY, SOCIALISTS, WHO PRESENTLY LEAST PREPARED FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS, NOW TALK OF NECESSITY TO SUPPORT MIKI PROGRAM.

6. COMMENT. MIKI PERSONALLY CONTINUES TO URGE PASSAGE OF ALL FIVE IMPORTANT ITEMS DESPITE WIDESPREAD OPINION THAT ONLY ONE, IF ANY, ITEM HAS CHANCE OF PASSAGE. THIS MAY BE BECAUSE HE SINCERELY BELIEVES THERE IS SOME LIKELIHOOD THAT ADDITIONAL BILLS WILL BE PASSED OR, AS SOME OTHER SEE IT, AS TACTICAL PLOY WHICH WILL END IN PILING OF ALL BLAME ON LACK OF SUCCESS ON HIS OPPONENTS. WHETHER HE WOULD ALSO TAKE ADDITIONAL STEP OF CALLING GENERAL ELECTION BEFORE HIS SCHEDULED AUGUST WASHINGTON VISIT IS MATTER OF CONJECTURE HERE, BUT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT, FOR VARIETY OF REASONS, HE WILL DELAY UNTIL AFTER EMPEROR'S OCTOBER US VISIT--AND PERHAPS EVEN INTO 1976--BEFORE GOING TO PEOPLE.
HODGSON

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